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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/764,031	01/17/2001	Christoph Kleinlogel	00-725	8064

7590 09/10/2002

Bachman & LaPointe, P.C.
900 Chapel Street, Suite 1201
New Haven, CT 06510-2802

EXAMINER

DERRINGTON, JAMES H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1731

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/764,031

Applicant(s)

KLEINLOGEL ET AL. 

Examiner

James Derrington

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 11-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
WO 91/09430 in view of Overs et al.

WO 91/09430 disclose compositions comprising ceria and dopants falling within the formula recited in claim 1 (See page 4). The composition of WO 91/09430 is suitable for producing sintered articles. Overs disclose a related doped ceria where the composition is prepared by coprecipitated oxalates. The resultant materials can be sintered at low temperatures and result in small grain sizes. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to use the coprecipitated oxalate procedure of Overs et al for preparing the doped ceria materials of WO 91/09430 in order to achieve the benefits of low sintering temperature and small grain size.

Applicant's arguments have been reviewed; however, they are not persuasive because the references have been argued from their failure to anticipate the claims. The position is maintained that there is incentive to use the coprecipitated oxalate procedure of Overs et al for preparing the doped ceria materials of WO 91/09430 in order to achieve the benefits of low sintering temperature and small grain size. The added limitations of the new claims, including "monitoring the temperature", interrupting the temperature, heating rates, holding times, grinding wet or dry, filtering and calcination are all well known and obvious procedures and well within the purview

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of one ordinary skill in the art when considering the combined teachings of the references.

3. Claims 11-16, 18-20 and 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 91/09430 in view of Van Herle.

WO 91/09430 disclose compositions comprising ceria and dopants falling within the formula recited in claim 1 (See page 4). The composition of WO 91/09430 is suitable for producing sintered articles. Van Herle disclose a related doped ceria where the composition is prepared by wet ball milling. The resultant materials can be sintered at low temperatures and result in small grain sizes. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to use the wet ball milling process of Van Herle for preparing the doped ceria materials of WO 91/09430 in order to achieve the benefits of low sintering temperatures and very small grain size.

Applicant's arguments have been reviewed; however, they are not well taken. The claims are inclusive of a sintering temperature of 1200 °C and further do not require full density. The added limitations of the new claims, including "monitoring the temperature", interrupting the temperature, heating rates, holding times, grinding wet or dry, filtering and calcination are all well known and obvious procedures and well within the purview of one ordinary skill in the art when considering the combined teachings of the references.

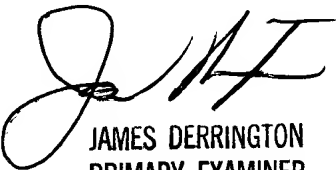
THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Derrington whose telephone number is (703) 308-3832.


JAMES DERRINGTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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jd
September 9, 2002